

OFFICE MEMORANDUM • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Approved For Release 2009/02/19 : CIA-RDP90-00610R000100090039-6

TO : Executive to Director

FROM : Chief, Legislative Liaison Branch

SUBJECT: Merger of British Armed Services

DATE: 7 October 1946

1. Attention is called to the publication in London on 4 October 1946 of a British Government White Paper announcing that the three services of the British armed forces will be coordinated under a single Ministry of Defense to be headed by Mr. A. V. Alexander.

2. The White Paper announced that Parliament, when it convenes this week, will be asked to create the new Cabinet position of Minister of Defense.

3. Under this plan the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretaries of State for War and Air will lose their Cabinet status. However, they will continue to function as heads of their respective services.

4. The functions of the Defense Ministry will include interservice organizations, including the Joint Intelligence Bureau.

5. In addition, the press reports the functions of the new Defense Ministry to include the general apportionment of available resources, the framing of a general policy for research and development, the correlation of production programs, and the settlement of questions of general administration where a common policy for the three services is desirable.

WALTER L. PFORZHEIMER
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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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